

Legal office answers 'taxing' questions

By Staff Sgt. Scott Farrow
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The holiday season is over, however, another is just around the corner – Tax Season. Beginning in February, the 8th Fighter Wing legal assistance office will provide tax assistance and electronic filing to active-duty members, family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilian employees.

Meanwhile, there are a few things people might want to think about to prepare for tax filing, according to Capt. Kelli Donley, 8th FW tax officer.

"If you had a child born in 2000 and didn't receive a Social Security identification number, I suggest you should begin the process of obtaining one immediately. If you don't have a Social Security number for your baby, you will not be able to claim the exemption (on your tax return)," Donley said. "Also,

people recently married to a non-resident alien who want to file a joint return need to obtain an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) for their spouse."

Donley said the easiest way to get an ITIN is by filing a W-7 with the Internal Revenue Service; it takes about 30 days to receive one. Donley said the spouse uses the ITIN in place of the Social Security number on the tax return. Failure to obtain an ITIN will prevent filing a joint return, which will likely mean a couple paying more taxes.

In addition, Donley said troops who want to file a joint tax return, and their spouse resides elsewhere, should consider the time it takes to send or receive a return via the mail.

"If you wish to file here at Kunsan, you should do so early enough to send the tax form or the electronic filing declaration back to your spouse in the States,

have him or her sign it, and return it here before the deadline," she said. One alternative is for the member or spouse to execute an IRS power-of-attorney to allow one party to file on behalf of both.

For troops requiring tax-filing assistance, each squadron will have IRS-trained volunteer income tax assistance representatives available as Unit Tax Advisors beginning Feb. 5. A list of Unit Tax Advisors will be available Feb 2 at the legal office.

For more information call the legal office at 782-4283, or visit their office Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4 p.m., or visit the legal office Web site at: www.kunsan.af.mil/milpages/8fw/8ja/index.htm.

"You can find all you need to know about filing taxes, as well as access links to every state taxing authority and the IRS," Donley said.

Wolf's Bytes

It looks like winter is finally upon us in full force. As the snow falls and temperatures drop, I can't stress enough the importance of cold-weather safety. Please read the article in this week's *Wolf Pack Warrior* about road conditions. Wing safety and security forces staff will be enforcing road condition driving rules.

With the cold weather and snow, getting to and from work can take extra time. Plan ahead and remember safety comes first.

One of the best sources of information about cold weather injuries is your *Airman's Manual*. Read it and know it, not only for your own safety, but for the safety of those around you. With sub-zero wind chills, it doesn't take long for frostbite to set in and serious damage to occur.

Even though it's cold, Korea has a lot to offer in snowy entertainment, as long as you're dressed appropriately. We've got some prime ski areas nearby and the services squadron has several ski trips scheduled over the next few weeks.

Take advantage of your time here to learn to ski if you don't know how. Outdoor recreation has some great deals on ski equipment packages.

Next week we'll be into our January exercise, one of our final two opportunities to demonstrate that we have perfected our warfighting capabilities that we'll be tested on during the Operational Readiness Inspection in March.

While everyone's been doing a great job throughout the year, we have and will continue to get new Wolf Pack members before the ORI who will need the help and support from those of you who've been around awhile. Stay on top, stay vigilant and help each other out.

After the exercise we'll have another great concert in Hangar 3. Boyz II Men will perform a free show Jan. 28 that starts at 8:30 p.m. As usual, services has planned for a highly charged night of dance and music.

Monday was Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. On Wednesday, a very talented group of people put together an outstanding luncheon to honor Dr. King.

I would like to thank the entire King Committee for their hard work and dedication to bring us a ceremony which truly reminded us of that one particular principle for which we have chosen to sacrifice so much: freedom for all.



Courtesy photo



Photo by Senior Airman Sarayuth Pinthong, 8th CS/VI

The hero who had a dream

Above: Tech. Sgt. William Brown, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron, performs a dramatization of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech at a commemorative luncheon at the Loring Club Wednesday.

Pride of the Pack



Job: 8th Services Squadron Falcon Community Center director.

Follow-on base: Nellis AFB, Nev.

Family: Husband, Robert, daughters Chelsie and Alicia, son Joshua.

Hometown: Fredericktown, Pa.

Hobbies: Baking, reading and running.

Words of wisdom: "Lead by example, not by rank."

The Pride of the Pack is nominated by his or her commander, first sergeant or supervisor, or any Wolf Pack member, for outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the mission. To nominate a Wolf Pack member, send a nomination to the individual's group commander.



Tech. Sgt. Mary Mayer